

Message

From: Fischer, David [Fischer.David@epa.gov]
Sent: 1/20/2021 12:56:19 AM
To: Dennis, Allison [Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]
CC: Dunn, Alexandra [dunn.alexandra@epa.gov]; Henry, Tala [Henry.Tala@epa.gov]; Keigwin, Richard [Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: EPA announces spate of moves on PFAS as Trump heads for exits

Thanks Allison, of course the memo was *to* me, not *from* me.

David B. Fischer, M.P.H., J.D.
Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-2665

From: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 7:07 PM
To: Fischer, David <Fischer.David@epa.gov>
Cc: Dunn, Alexandra <dunn.alexandra@epa.gov>; Henry, Tala <Henry.Tala@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA announces spate of moves on PFAS as Trump heads for exits

You are mentioned below.

From: POLITICO Pro Energy <alert@email.politicopro.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 7:01 PM
To: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA announces spate of moves on PFAS as Trump heads for exits

EPA announces spate of moves on PFAS as Trump heads for exits

By Annie Snider

01/19/2021 07:00 PM EST

On the last full day of the Trump administration, EPA announced a number of steps aimed at addressing toxic "forever chemicals," including formally launching the process for regulating two of the chemicals in drinking water.

The regulations: EPA released a final regulatory determination finding that the two best-studied chemicals in the family, PFOA and PFOS, should be regulated in drinking water — a step promised by Trump's first EPA administrator, Scott Pruitt, in 2018. The formal determination launches the years-long process of developing a Safe Drinking Water Act limit.

The agency also proposed requiring drinking water utilities to test for 29 types of PFAS as part of the next round of mandatory, nationwide sampling from 2023-2025. Among them are six PFAS that were tested for in

an earlier round of monitoring, although independent scientists now say that utilities were not required to report the chemicals at low enough levels.

The nationwide sampling, called the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule, will tell EPA how widespread the chemicals are. EPA must be able to prove that a chemical is widespread in order to justify Safe Drinking Water Act regulation. The proposal would also require utilities to monitor drinking water for lithium.

None of the actions announced by EPA on PFAS have yet run in the Federal Register, and they will almost certainly be held up by Biden's planned regulatory freeze.

Other actions: EPA also released two advance notices to collect information ahead of potential rulemakings on PFAS. One notice seeks comment on whether the agency should take additional steps relating to the chemicals PFOA and PFOS in the environment, including whether they should be listed as hazardous under the country's Superfund law or other cleanup laws.

The second notice seeks information relating to the presence of PFAS in discharges from chemical and other manufacturers. In a statement, the agency said the "the information collected through this action will help inform whether these industrial sources warrant regulation" through its effluent limitation guidelines program.

The agency also released a final scientific assessment relating to the toxicity of the chemical PFBS. Last week POLITICO reported that Trump administration officials overruled the staff scientists in the Office of Research and Development who had been working on the assessment for years to weaken its core conclusions.

Along with the final assessment, EPA posted a memo critical of a key part of the career staffers' assessment from David Fischer, a political official in agency's pesticide and chemicals office who was previously a top staffer at the American Chemistry Council.

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